

# Contending FOR THE Faith™

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE TRUTH AND HATE ERROR

## THE ATHEIST, A FOOL

B.C. Goodpasture

David begins two of his Psalms, the fourteenth and fifty-third, with the declaration: “**The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.**” One who denies the existence of God is an atheist—from *a*, not; plus *theos*, God. The agnostic differs from the atheist in that he says he does not know whether God is or not. All he certainly knows is that he does not believe in the Bible as a revelation from God.

The atheist is driven by necessity to make, as Herbert Spencer expressed it, the “assumption of self-existence somewhere.” He assumes the self-existence of matter. He, therefore, denies that there was any creation, because, according to his assumption, there was no Creator. He differs at this point from the pantheist, who believes that everything is God, in that the latter holds that there has been no creation because there is no creature. The Christian differs from both in that he assumes that God is the self-existent Creator. Only this assumption accounts for the existence of the universe and all that is in it.

The conclusion of the atheist was not reached through close and accurate reasoning from well-established premises. It was not the result of a careful examination of the human body, in which was considered the wonderful adaptation of organ and muscle to function; it was not the result of prolonged examinations of the faculties and yearnings of the human soul; it was not based upon a detailed exploration of the universe, in which the wonders

of a starry night were duly considered. When David considered the wonders of a starry night—and the nightly Syrian skies were amazingly brilliant—he exclaimed: “**The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge**” (Psa. 19:1, 2). The atheist did not reach his conclusion from a fair and extensive investigation of the Holy Scriptures.

When Gilbert West wanted to show the impossibility of the resurrection of Christ, he set himself to a study of the divine record; and when Lord Lyttelton wanted to demonstrate the unlikelihood of Paul’s conversion, he turned to the Bible for a more perfect knowledge of the report of that event; and when Lew Wallace wanted to write a book in proof of the humanity of Jesus, he searched the Scriptures; and the result for each of them was the same. Gilbert West came out of his investigation a converted man, believing that God has raised his Son from the dead; Lyttelton finished his studies, accepting not only the conversion, but the inspiration, of Paul! While Lew Wallace found in the sacred record convincing proof that Christ was not alone human, but unquestionably divine (Riley).

The pronouncement of the atheist that there is no God is but the iniquitous expression of the thoughts of a wicked and depraved heart. The wish is father to the thought. A sinful and guilty heart would gladly get rid of the thought that there is a God “who is the great moral Governor, the Patron of rectitude, and the Punisher of iniquity.” John Foster related the story of three young men who, having committed a capital crime, heard the family

### IN THIS ISSUE.....

THE ATHEIST, A FOOL – B.C. GOODPASTURE .....	1
SPRING CFTF LECTURESHIP ADVERTISEMENT .....	3

# Contending FOR THE Faith™

David P. Brown, Editor and Publisher  
dpbcftf@gmail.com

**COMMUNICATIONS received by CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH and/or its Editor are viewed as intended FOR PUBLICATION unless otherwise stated. Whereas we respect confidential information, so described, everything else sent to us we are free to publish without further permission being necessary. Anything sent to us NOT for publication, please indicate this clearly when you write. Please address such letters directly to the Editor David P. Brown, 25403 Lancewood Dr. 77373 or dpbcftf@gmail.com. Telephone: (281) 350-5516.**

**FREE—FREE—FREE—FREE—FREE—FREE**

**To receive CFTF free, go to [www.cftfpaper.com](http://www.cftfpaper.com) and sign up. Once done, you will be notified when the current issue is available. It will be in the form of a PDF document that can be printed, and forwarded to friends.**

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
FOR THE PAPER EDITION  
Single Print Subs:**

**One Year, \$25.00; Two Years, \$45.00**

**NO REFUNDS FOR CANCELLATIONS OF  
PRINT SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH exists to defend the gospel (Philippians 1:7,17) and refute error (Jude 3). Therefore, we will not knowingly print anything to the contrary.**

**CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH  
25403 Lancewood Dr., Spring, Texas 77373  
Telephone: (281) 350-5516**

**Ira Y. Rice, Jr., Founder  
August 3, 1917–October 10, 2001**

with which they were staying engaged in reading the Bible and praying; and they immediately fell to discussing whether there was a God or a hereafter, and they agreed in denying both. They later admitted that they reached this conclusion because they wished it were so.

The position of the atheist is one of consummate folly, because he affirms a negative proposition which is incapable of proof. One would have to be a god in all essential respects in order to prove his contention that there is no God. He would have to be at all places at all times to prove that there is no God, because in some place where he is not, God might be. And if he could be in all places at all times, he would be omnipresent, and this is a characteristic of Deity. Besides, he would have to know all things in order to establish this negative proposition, because the one thing that he did not know might be the truth that God is. If he knew everything, he would be omniscient, another characteristic of Deity. One would have to be both omnipresent and omniscient to establish the contention of the atheist that there is no God. Moreover, if atheism is true, no one will ever know it. No living atheist can prove it. And if it is true, man ceases to exist with death, and cannot, therefore, prove or know it after death.

The atheist is a fool, because he places himself in a universe for which he can find no adequate explanation. He cannot tell how the world began or how it will end; he does not know whence he came or whither he goes. Atheism, someone has said, “stretches out empty skies over a fatherless world.” The atheist leaves the race with a mindless universe about it, a hopeless grave beneath it, and empty heavens about it. Fitchett has well said:

In an atheistic home no mother would teach her children to pray. Love would be left with broken heart and empty hands, for what epitaph can atheism write above the grave of a little child? The feet made beautiful because they bring glad tidings would run no more on efforts of pity to far off lands and wild races. Can the human imagination picture a committee of atheists starting off, at risk and cost to themselves, to transform savage races into nobler type by news that no God exists?

A new cruelty would creep into the world’s politics and into its social life if atheism became universal. The whole conception of man would be changed. The great law of love—love which lifts its face toward God—would be unwritten, for at the crown of

(continued on page 4)

# Spring Church Of Christ

*Contending For The Faith* Lectureship



## Things Helpful To Becoming & Being A Christian

# February 22, 2025

**9:00 AM:** *Integrity* (Psalms 26) – Jonathan West

**10:00 AM:** *Ahab, The Accuser* (1 Kings 16:29-33) – Jack Stephens

**11:00 AM:** *Courage* (Psalms 27) – Jose Gamez

**LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE SPRING CONGREGATION**

**1:30 PM:** *Kinds Of Fear* – Bruce Stulting

**2:30 PM:** *Let Brotherly Love Continue* (Hebrews 13:1) – Eric Paluka

**3:30 PM:** *OPEN FORUM* (All speakers)

**LECTURESHIP DIRECTOR:** David P. Brown

**ELDERS:** David P. Brown, Kenneth D. Cohn, John West

1327 Spring Cypress Road Spring, TX 77373 ~ (281) 353-2707  
springcoc@gmail.com

**LIVE VIEWING @ [www.churchesofchrist.com](http://www.churchesofchrist.com)**

***Contending For The Faith***  
**25403 Lancewood Dr.**  
**Spring, Texas 77373**

---

(“*The Atheist*” ... continued from page 2)

the heavens there sits no God. And the twin and equal law of love-love flowing from man to man—would not survive.

The utter gloom which settles over the mind of the atheist is seen in the poem, “City of Dreadful Night,” written by James Thomson, himself an atheist. He says:

*The city is of night; perchance of death,  
But certainly of night; for never there  
Can come the lucid morning’s fragrant breath,  
After the dewy morning’s cold, gray air;  
The moon and stars may shine with scorn or pity;  
The sun has never visited that city,  
For it dissolveth in the daylight fair.*

*The city is of night, but not of sleep;  
There sweet sleep is not for the weary brain;  
The pitiless hours like years and ages creep,  
A night seems termless hell ....*

Again, he continues more gloomily:

*The mighty river, flowing dark and deep,  
With ebb and flood from the remote sea tides,  
Vague sounding through the city’s sleepless sleep,*

*Is named the River of the Suicides;  
For night by night some lorn wretch, overweary,  
And shuddering from future yet more dreary,  
Within its cold secure oblivion hides.*

Contrast this description of the atheist’s “City of Dreadful Night” with the city which the exiled John saw coming down out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; contrast this atheistic “River of the Suicides” with the river of water of life, which flows clear as crystal through the city of God.

The doctrines of the atheist are the distilled essence of wickedness. They should never be preached. The atheist should be so ashamed of his malady as never to mention it. Henry Rogers said the atheist “ought to conceal his belief as if it were a guilty secret, and to dread making proselytes as men refrain from exhibiting their infectious sores or their plague-tainted garments in the eyes of the world.” Atheism is the leprosy of the heart. It is the utmost rejection of God.

—Deceased

(Originally written in 1949 as an editorial for the *Gospel Advocate*)